

Amendments to the Drawings

Replacement formal drawings of Figures 1-3 and 5 are submitted concurrently herewith under a separate cover letter.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-7 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-7 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner raised various objections to the specification, claims and drawings. The above amendments to the specification, claims and drawings address these objections, and it is submitted that all of these objections have been overcome, as will be discussed below.

Otherwise, at the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 1-7 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Accordingly, since the objection to the claims has been overcome as discussed below, it is submitted that all of the claims are now clearly allowable.

Specifically regarding the objection to the disclosure at the top of page 2 of the Office Action, it is noted that the references in the specification to specific claim numbers have been removed. Also, in paragraph [0020] of the specification, as well as in claims 4, 6 and 7, the references to the width directions of the tubes have been corrected to consistently refer to the width T1 along the direction of airflow being greater than the width T3 along the tank axis, in the central areas of the tubes, and conversely the width T4 along the tank axis being greater than the width T2 along the direction of airflow at the tube opening ends thereof.

Regarding the objection to claim 1 on the basis that "said tank passage section" at line 8 thereof lacks antecedent basis, the claim has been amended by changing "an equivalent diameter

of said tanks corresponding to said tank passage section” to -- an equivalent diameter of each of said tanks at a passage section thereof-- Conforming revisions have been made to lines 9-11 of claim 1.

Regarding claims 4, 6 and 7, the objection thereto has been obviated as discussed above by correcting the references to the different widths of the tubes.

Next, at the top of page 3 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for failing to show “S”, “P” and “Sc”. In this regard, Fig. 3 has been amended by adding reference character S to show the flow passage area inside the tank 2. It is noted that “S” is a variable of an equation and not, strictly speaking, a reference character. However, since it is possible and practical to show a reference character pointing to the flow passage area inside the tank 2, “S” has been added to Fig. 3 as mentioned. However, the reference character “P” refers to the length of the inner circumference of each of the tanks 2, 3. It is difficult to show the length of the inner circumference of the tank 2 in a two-dimensional drawing. However, in an attempt to clarify that the variable “P” refers to the length of the inner circumference of the tank 2, reference character “P” has been added to Fig. 3 to point to the inner circumference of the tank 2. Regarding the variable “Sc”, this is a variable that cannot be readily shown in the drawings, because it refers to a theoretical area of a circle having the circumference P. The area “S” of the flow passage of the inside of the tank 2 is the area of the actual tank passage, with the tube end 4b inserted therein. On the other hand, the variable Sc is the calculated area of a circle having the circumference P, and therefore is not illustrated in the drawings. It is submitted that the showing of the variable “Sc” is not necessary for an understanding of the present invention.

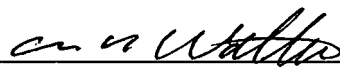
Thus, Replacement Drawings are submitted herewith in order to add the reference characters “S” and “P” in Fig. 3. Replacement Drawings are also submitted herewith to provide separate figure labels for Fig. 1(a), Fig. 1(b), Fig. 5(a) and Fig. 5(b), in accordance with U.S. practice. Approval and entry of these Replacement Drawings are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 13, 2007